

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035605

TOSEC 101

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JACK B. KUBISCH

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO GEORGETOWN FROM
KINGSTON 20 FEB 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS SITREP 11

PM MANLEY ANNOUNCES BAUXITE INVESTIGATIONS

1. AT THE TAIL END OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING
THE SUCCESSFUL SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN
PRIME MINISTERMANLEY TOLD THE PRESS THAT TALKS WITH THE BAUXITE
COMPANIES WILL GET UNDER WAY NEXT MONTH. THE PM SAID THAT
THE TALKS WILL BE HELD IN JAMAICA, AND THAT RENEGOTIATION PRICE
BEING PAID FOR BAUXITE IS PART OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY
OF GETTING MORE FROM MAJOR EXPORTS TO HELP THE
ISLAND'S FINANCIAL STUATION. HE ADDED THAT A LEVEL
OF SENSITIVITY AND INTELLIGENCE WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED
THE LONDON SUGAR TALKS WOULD BE NEEDED IF THE
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CONSULTATIONS ON BAUXITE WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

2. COMMENT: THOSE IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES ARE EXUBERANT AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUGAR TALK WHICH, EVEN IF IT ONLY COVERS JAMAICA'S COST OF PRODUCTION, IS NEVERTHELESS A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PREVIOUS SITUATION. MANLEY IS TAKING PERSONAL CREDIT FOR THE NEGOTIATION, AND ITS RELATIVE SUCCESS HAS PROBABLY ADDED TO THE CONVICTION THAT A HARD LINE IS THE BEST TACTIC TO TAKE WHEN DEALING WITH METROPOLITAN POWERS. HEWITT UNQUOTE RUSH

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